

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejects claims 1-12, 19, and 21-32 as having been obvious over WO 03/093387 (with U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0159511 serving as an English-language counterpart) to Kramer ("Kramer"), in view of U.S. Statutory Invention Registration No. H2047 H to Harrison et al. ("Harrison"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to: "A two-component adhesive **K** comprising: a component **K**₁ and a component **K**₂, wherein: component **K**₁ comprises...at least one epoxy adduct **B**, wherein each epoxy adduct **B** has more than one epoxy group and more than one hydroxyl group per molecule on average; at least one product **F** of a reaction between an epoxy adduct **B** and compound **C** with at least two isocyanate groups...and compound **K**₂ comprises: at least one compound **E** with at least two isocyanate groups...."

Kramer is directed to heat-cured compositions that are distinguished by both high impact strength and a high glass transition temperature at the same time. See paragraph [0001]. As acknowledged by the Office Action, Kramer fails to expressly teach a "reaction product **F** of a reaction between an epoxy adduct **B** and compound **C** with at least two isocyanate groups" and a second component (**K**₂) "comprising compound **E**," as recited in claim 1.

The Office Action points to paragraph [0063] of Kramer for the teaching that the adhesive comprises the reaction product of the epoxy adduct with isocyanate groups from a polyurethane prepolymer. See Office Action, page 3. However, paragraph [0063] states that "the hydroxyl groups in the epoxy adduct are reacted with isocyanate groups or isocyanate prepolymers." Therefore, there is no epoxy adduct corresponding to **B** of claim 1 left in the adhesive compound of Kramer.

Furthermore, the Office Action points to paragraph [0078] of Kramer for the reaction product of the epoxy adduct with isocyanate groups from a polyurethane prepolymer. See Office Action, page 3. However, paragraph [0078] only teaches a blocked polyurethane prepolymer. Thus, even in paragraph [0078], Kramer fails to teach a reaction product of an epoxy adduct and a polyisocyanate, as specifically required for reaction product F, according to claim 1.

Therefore, in view of the above, Kramer fails to teach the epoxy adduct B, the reaction product F of a reaction between an epoxy adduct B and a compound C with at least two isocyanate groups, and even more, the coexistence of B and F in the component adhesive, as required by claim 1.

Harrison is directed to a laminate useful for reinforcing or stiffening body panels, which includes three polymeric layers. See column 2, lines 37-38. One of the polymeric layers is a compliant layer comprised of a flexible polymer...being reinforced using a reactive thermosettable adhesive comprised of at least one polyol, at least one epoxy resin, and at least one polyisocyanate. See column 2, lines 29-43. However, in defining the term "polyol," Harrison teaches a number of suitable polyether polyols but fails to teach the epoxy adduct required in claim 1. See column 10, line 45-column 11, line 25. Thus, Harrison fails to teach a polyol which is an epoxy adduct, as required by B and F in claim 1.

Harrison fails to cure deficiencies of Kramer. Therefore, even in combination, the references would not have rendered obvious the features of claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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